

MARQUETTE BANK

NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information:
Jeff MacDonald
708-364-9023
jmacdonald@emarquettebank.com

Marquette Bank Links Chicago Ridge Chaplain and Troops Stationed in Iraq to Neighborhood Holiday Spirit

Bank provides packages for U.S. Army Personnel who won't be home for the holidays through Adopt-a-Soldier Project

Orland Park, IL (December 10, 2009) – Marquette Bank, a locally-owned neighborhood bank, continued its Adopt-a-Soldier tradition by preparing over 100 holiday packages for men and women serving in Iraq who will not be home with their families for the holidays. The 4,000 troop brigade was brought to the attention of Marquette Bank by former associate pastor of Our Lady of the Ridge Parish in Chicago Ridge, Father Ken Carlson. Father Ken serves as an Army Major Chaplain deployed in northern Iraq for the 15th Sustainment Brigade from Ft. Hood Texas and has been a Bank customer for many years.

“Several staff members knew Father Ken when he served in Chicago Ridge and have followed his record of service since he joined the Army in 2002. We respect his calling to minister to people of all faiths who are deployed in Iraq and are especially touched by his visits to our troops serving in remote northern locations – areas that rarely receive visitors,” said Betty Kosky-Harn, Executive Vice President. “We hope these packages bring a bit of neighborhood holiday spirit to the troops and convey our appreciation for all their efforts.”

The packages, prepared by Marquette Bank employees, included a variety of snacks, personal hygiene kits and DVD's. Employees collected 4,000 Slim Jims and sent 4,000 cards hand written both by employees and local school children thanking the soldiers for their sacrifice during the holiday season – enough for each member of the brigade.

Marquette Bank would like to thank all the students and schools who wrote letters and signed cards: Peck Elementary School in Chicago, the Immaculate Conception School in Chicago, Serena Hills School in Chicago Heights, St. Andrew School in Romeoville, Ms. Boersma's class at Kerksta Elementary School in Oak Forest, Prairie View Junior High in Tinley Park, Fernway School in Orland Park and, from Orland Park School District 135, Orland Park Elementary School, Center School, Meadowview Ridge School, Prairie School, Century Jr. High School, Knorbert Jerling Jr. High and Orland Jr. High School.

Marquette Bank has been in regular contact with Father Ken by email, recently receiving acknowledgment that the first of their holiday shipments had arrived.

Father Ken wrote, “Our troops are heartened by the support Marquette Bank employees have shown to them – taking time from their own families during the holiday season to think of those serving our country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The advance planning and care assures that our troops will have a reminder of home during the next few weeks. The spirit of the Christmas season I know so well from serving the Archdiocese in Chicago and the southwest suburbs is here with us.”

The Bank also continued its yearly participation with Operation Support Our Troops Illinois, whose mission is to send packages of items not readily available to soldiers in deployed locations, along with personal letters, cards and notes of support. The organization’s Web site lists the top ten most needed items, which include: peanut butter, jelly, mayonnaise, crackers, antacids, unscented wipes, foot powder, non-aerosol shaving cream, men’s lotion and mouthwash. The Bank recently hosted a packing party for employees to pack food, entertainment and “most needed” items for the troops.

The annual Marquette Bank Adopt-a-Soldier Project is an employee-driven effort that is part of Marquette’s Neighborhood Commitment where each quarter the Bank focuses on a different area of need – shelter, hunger, education, and health/well-being. For more information about Marquette Bank and its Neighborhood Commitment, visit www.emarquettebank.com or call 1-888-254-9500.



Photo: Marquette Bank employees Nicki Oker, Jerry Magold and Curt Meyer pack holiday care packages for U.S. soldiers stationed overseas during Marquette Bank’s Adopt-a-Soldier Project.



Photo: Marquette Bank employees and family members pose with a mountain of Slim Jims at a recent packing party as the Bank prepared to send 4,000 cards and Slim Jims to the 15th Sustainment Brigade stationed in Iraq during its Adopt-a-Soldier Project.



Photo: Marquette Bank employee, Karen Mikan, visits Prairie School in Orland Park as part of the Bank's Adopt-a-Soldier Project to pick up cards and letters written by students for the 15th Sustainment Brigade stationed in Iraq.

About Marquette Bank:

Marquette National Corporation is a \$1.6 billion diversified financial holding company for Marquette Bank. Marquette Bank has been a locally-operated bank providing personalized banking service since 1945. Marquette Bank is a full-service, customer-focused neighborhood bank that serves the financial needs of Chicagoland communities, offering an extensive line of financial products including retail banking, mortgages, trust and business banking, free Online Bill Pay and free Automated Telephone Banking. Marquette Bank's retail branches are located in Chicago, Aurora, Bolingbrook, Bridgeview, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Lemont, New Lenox, Oak Lawn, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Romeoville and Summit, Illinois. Marquette Bank customers have convenient free access to almost 40,000 Allpoint and Starsf ATMs.

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